MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1978

James Earl Ray Confirms Marriage in Two or Three Weeks

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — James Earl Ray has confirmed he will marry a free-lance artist within the next two to three weeks at the prison where he is serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Yes, we're getting married, but we're not sure of the exact date yet," Ray told the *Knoxville Journal* in a telephone interview Thursday. "The warden has to approve the papers, and then we have to get a blood test."

Anna Sandhu, a blonde, 32-year-old courtroom artist from Knoxville, and Ray, 50, first saw each other last year at Ray's Morgan County Court hearing on charges stemming from his June 1977 breakout at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary here.

Miss Sandhu, divorced from an Indian student five years ago, disclosed Tuesday she would marry the convicted killer. She appeared on NBC's "Today Show" yesterday to discuss her plans. She could not be reached for comment today.

"I don't want to talk about the details in the papers," Ray told the newspaper. "It's just between Anna and me."

Warden Stonney Lane said this week Ray has not formally asked permission to be married.

Lane said this week that if Ray and Miss Sandhu are granted permission to marry, the ceremony will take place in Brushy's heavily guarded visitors' room where Ray has met often with government investigators assigned to probe King's 1968 slaying in Memphis.